



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Tulsa District

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To: Editors

Synopsis: Water safety reminder for July 4th Weekend

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Corps of Engineers urges water safety at area lakes for July 4th weekend

TULSA, Okla. -- The Fourth of July weekend looks to be one of the hottest weekends of the summer which means area lakes will be in heavy use. Lake visitors are encouraged to practice water safety when on or near the water, the Army Corps of Engineers stressed today.

Boaters, swimmers, and anglers can count on a wonderful summer weekend at the lake, but the Corps of Engineers reminds everyone to practice these water safety guidelines:

ALWAYS wear a life jacket while on or near the water. Nearly 90 percent of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Whether you're a seasoned swimmer or a novice, adult or child, your best defense is to wear a life jacket.

AVOID drinking alcoholic beverages. Just as drinking and driving don't mix, neither does drinking and boating, drinking and swimming, or drinking and diving. Drinking affects your ability to know what you can and cannot do on the water. It also puts the lives of others in danger.

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4TH OF JULY WATER SAFETY -- 2/2/2

Remember that when operating personal water craft -- JetSkis, WaveRunners, etc., you're under the same laws and regulations as when operating a boat. Watch the buoys and markers, slow down when approaching another vessel, and operate the personal water craft in a responsible manner.

WATCH your children closely and make sure they wear a life jacket that fits them. Children can slip under water so easily. A close eye and a life jacket can help avoid a tragic situation. Also, remember that inflatable water toys are not designed as life preservers. If you child is going to be playing on an air mattress or inflatable tube, he or she should also be wearing a life jacket.

DON'T DIVE into the lake. From the water surface or the shoreline, you can't discern the water depth or what hazards lie just below the surface. The best advice would be to avoid diving altogether.

The Corps of Engineers encourages lake visitors to use these water safety techniques during any outing to the lake, but particularly during a holiday weekend when the number of people at the lake increases significantly.

-- 30 --